



Rolling in the Depp

This summer's alFresco filmFesto is as devoted to Johnny Depp as you are. The first of five outdoor Depp films rolls Friday PAGE 19

COMING 'TO PLAY WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD'

PAUL CASEY READY FOR FUN IN HALIFAX PAGE 27



HALIFAX

metro

®

Thursday, July 26, 2012



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GAMES ON FOR OUR OLYMPIANS

Kayaker Mark de Jonge of Halifax, shown earlier this month practising in the waters of Lake Banook, is one of 11 Nova Scotians competing at the Summer Olympics in London starting Friday. See pages 4 and 5 for a special section on our local medal chasers. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Native leader calls for more Muskrat inclusion

Council of the Federation. Meetings continue in Halifax on Thursday, Friday



ALEX BOUTILIER
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Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Kathy Dunderdale is ruling out a new agreement with the southern Inuit of Labrador on the Muskrat Falls mega-project.

Speaking at the start of a three-day Council of the Federation meeting Wednesday, Dunderdale told reporters in Lunenburg that while talks will continue with the NunatuKavut, the land-claim agreements for the massive hydroelectric project have already been signed.

"We've established what the land claim is, what their rights are under that land-claim agreement; we have three agreements under the land-claim settlement with the Innu," Dunderdale said.

"We're not getting into (monetary) discussions at this point in time, but we'll continue to consult as we did at the past."

Energy and natural resources will be among the main focuses of the premier meetings. Muskrat Falls, the \$6.2-billion hydroelectric project announced in 2010 between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, is on the agenda.

In an address to the 13 premiers earlier in the day, Betty Ann Lavallée, the national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, called on Dunderdale to include the NunatuKavut, a self-identified group in Labrador, in negotiations.

"They're not even entertaining discussions, period. And that's not inclusion," Lavallée told Metro.

"I'm sure that Premier Dexter would say, as the chair, to Premier Dunderdale that you need to sit down, you need to be inclusive."

In fact, Dexter refused to wade into those waters.

"That's a matter for Newfoundland, for them to deal with," Dexter told reporters.



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Premiers conference

Premiers deflect AFN call for inquiry on violence against aboriginal women

National Chief Shawn Atleo left a meeting Wednesday with Canada's premiers without their full support for a public inquiry into violence against aboriginal women.

The chief of the Assembly of First Nations met with the premiers in Lunenburg, N.S., where they discussed several issues of concern to aboriginal peoples, including health care and natural-resources development.

Afterward, he urged the premiers and the federal government to support his calls for a national inquiry into missing and slain aboriginal women.

"This is a moment of reckoning. This is a defining moment in this country," Atleo said. "We're calling on these premiers to take what we see as being absolutely necessary and take a significant leadership role."

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter, who hosted the meeting, said the matter was discussed and a consensus was reached to "watch what was happening" in other provinces, though he didn't elaborate.

But Dexter wouldn't offer unequivocal support for Atleo's call for an inquiry. "The gravity of the situation is not to be diminished and we understand very much the desire to get to the bottom of these things," Dexter said. "But what I'm saying is there are other things that are already underway."

He said a meeting to discuss aboriginal women's issues would be held in Manitoba in November. Ottawa has also resisted calls for an inquiry. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

'Health care, not wealth care,' demand marchers

Premiers Puppets Parade. Activists urge provincial leaders to stand up to Stephen Harper over planned cuts to public care

KATE HOWELL
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Dozens of people held posters and puppets resembling the 10 provincial premiers as they marched through downtown Halifax chanting "Health care, not wealth care" on Wednesday afternoon.

They were participating in the Premiers Puppets Parade, a march orchestrated by the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network. They're asking the premiers to get Prime Minister Stephen Harper to renegotiate his plans to cut public health care by \$31 billion between 2017 and 2024, said Adrienne Silnicki, a health-care campaigner for the Council of Canadians.

"We're asking the premiers to not be puppets; stand up to Harper, tell him that he has to get back to that table and that he has to negotiate. They need to do that as a united front," Silnicki said at the protest.

The premiers are in town

Quoted

"Health care is a fundamental and vitally important part of Canada. It's shameful this is something we should be fighting at all."

Brian Crouse, a local protester, who marched holding a David Alward puppet



Members of the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network and the Council of Canadians march holding puppets bearing the likenesses of the Canadian premiers down Sackville Street in Halifax on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

P.E.I. contingent

- A bus titled Medicare Expression: Public All the Way transported 29 people from Prince Edward Island to Halifax to participate in the Premiers Puppets Parade.
- Mary Boyd, a chair for the P.E.I. Health Coalition, wanted to give Islanders a chance to participate in Wednesday's protest to support public health care.
- "The absence of the federal government is sending a strong message about what (Stephen) Harper thinks about health care," she said.
- Health-care supporters want a stable public health-care system, which is threatened by the "creeping of privatization," said Boyd.

"If they cut back in funding, these are the things that won't be available to him anymore," she said.

Those who participated in the march expressed the increasing worry that health care is becoming pri-

vativized.

"We're really going to see every province start to be really divided on what they offer. Canadians will no longer have a health system that's portable or universal," Silnicki said.

Mobile news



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Nova Scotia is boasting 11 Olympians competing in London. Here's a look at our homegrown athletes ahead of Friday's opening ceremonies

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

1 Jason McCoombs

Sport: Canoe (C-1 200 metres)
Hometown: Dartmouth
Age: 19
Bio: Banook canoeist won three gold medals at the 2009 Canada Games ...



Collected three more gold medals at the 2010 Pan American junior canoe championships in Mexico ... Knocked off several more experienced paddlers to qualify for Olympics.
Competition dates: Aug. 10 (heats, semifinal) and Aug. 11 (final).
Twitter: @Jason-McCoombs

Ryan Cochrane

Sport: Kayak (K-2 200 metres, with partner Hugues Fournel of Dorval, Que.)
Hometown: Windsor
Age: 29
Bio: Grew up in Windsor but also lived in Hammonds Plains and trained at Maskwa ... Career took off after switching from 500 and 1,000-metre distances to shorter 200s ... Won a bronze medal at a World Cup event in Poland in May.

Competition dates: Aug. 10 (heats, semifinal) and Aug. 11 (final).
Twitter: @rcochrane2012



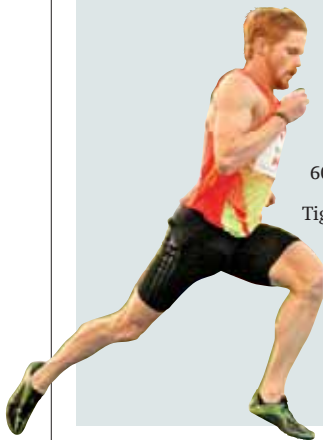
3 Mark de Jonge

Sport: Kayak (K-1 200 metres)
Hometown: Halifax
Age: 28
Bio: Born in Calgary but moved to Halifax 15 years ago in his early teens and has called Maskwa his home club since ... Put engineering career on hold to focus on 2012 Games ... Time of 33.804 seconds at Olympic trials is faster than world record of 33.98.
Competition dates: Aug. 10 (heats, semifinal) and Aug. 11 (final).
Twitter: @markadejonge



Geoff Harris

Sport: Track (800 metres)
Hometown: Halifax
Age: 25
Bio: Won gold at the 2009 Canada Games ... Two-time 600-metre national university champion with Dalhousie Tigers ... Has set four personal bests, peaking at 1:46.12, in a breakthrough year ... Won first 800-metre national championship last month in Calgary.
Competition dates: Aug. 6 (heats), Aug. 7 (semifinal) and Aug. 9 (final).
Twitter: @geoff800



11 Nova Scotia's athletes at the Summer Olympics

Jenna Martin

Sport: Track (400 metres)
Hometown: Bridgewater
Age: 24
Bio: NCAA Division I All-American at Kentucky during four-year career ... Qualified for the Olympics by 0.02 of a second at nationals last month in Calgary ... Winner of two straight national 400-metre titles.
Competition dates: Aug. 3 (heats), Aug. 4 (semifinal) and Aug. 5 (final).
Twitter: @Mz_Can_eh_D_n



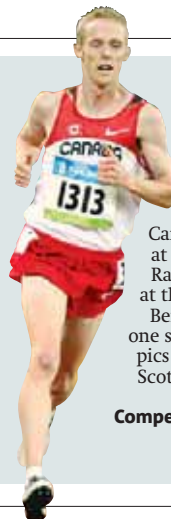
Amy Cotton

Sport: Judo (under-78 kilograms)
Hometown: Judique
Age: 32
Bio: Competed in 2004 Olympics in Athens and reached quarter-finals, but missed the 2008 event in Beijing ... Won bronze at the 2003 Pan American Games ... Ranked 14th in the world in May.
Competition date: Aug. 2.
Twitter: None



Eric Gillis

Sport: Marathon
Hometown: Antigonish
Age: 32
Bio: Former all-Canadian track athlete at St. Francis Xavier ... Ran the 10,000 metres at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing ... Qualified by one second for the Olympics at the 2011 Toronto Scotiabank Marathon in 2:11:28.
Competition date: Aug. 12
Twitter: None



Ellie Black

Sport: Artistic gymnastics
Hometown: Halifax
Age: 16
Bio: Bounced back from injury-plagued year in 2011 to clinch Olympic spot ... Won double gold at a World Cup event in Croatia in April ... Won gold on vault and bronze on floor at nationals in Regina in May ... One of five athletes on Olympic team.
Competition dates: July 29 (qualification), July 31 (team), Aug. 2 (all-around), Aug. 5 (vault), Aug. 6 (bars), Aug. 7 (beam, floor).
Twitter: @EllieBlack



Danielle Dube

Sport: Sailing (Laser)
Hometown: Glen Haven
Age: 25
Bio: Member of Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron and St. Margaret Sailing Club ... Was the first Nova Scotian to officially qualify for the Olympics back in January, with a 15th-place finish at a World Cup event in Miami.
Competition dates: July 30-Aug. 1, Aug. 3-4, Aug. 6.
Twitter: @DubeSailing



Custio Clayton

Sport: Boxing (69 kilograms)
Hometown: North Preston
Age: 24
Bio: Quit for a while in his teens but continued to train with intent of returning to sport ... Finished fifth in American zone qualifier in Brazil in May ... Father of two children ... Winner of three straight national championships.
Competition dates: July 29 (Round of 32), Aug. 3 (Round of 16), Aug. 7 (quarter-finals), Aug. 10 (semifinals), Aug. 12 (medal matches).
Twitter: None



David Sharpe

Sport: Swimming (200-metre butterfly)
Hometown: Halifax
Age: 21
Bio: Grew up training with Halifax Trojans ... Three-time all-Canadian for Dalhousie Tigers ... Won two gold medals at 2009 Canada Games ... Set a Nova Scotia record with a time of 1:58.51 to clinch his spot at the Olympics in March.
Competition dates: July 30 (heats, semifinals), July 31 (final).
Twitter: None





North Preston boxer Custio Clayton takes a break from training at City of Lakes Boxing Club earlier this year. METRO FILE

'I feel I can beat anybody they put in front of me'

North Preston boxer. Custio Clayton not lacking for confidence as he prepares to take all comers at his first Summer Games



MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Custio Clayton was a scrawny kid from North Preston when he stepped into the boxing ring for his first competitive fight at age 10.

He hadn't even been sparing for a year since following an older cousin, Lucas Downey, into the City of Lakes boxing club in Dartmouth to see what the punishing sport was all about. But he wasn't intimidated and had no fear of being knocked to the canvas.

"For some reason, it just felt like it was something I had to do," Clayton says, laughing at the memory. "From that first day, there was something about it that just made me want to keep going more and more. I didn't give in."

He was a natural from the get-go. Just a few years after his first fight, he won his first of three straight national championships at age 13 and started dreaming about going to the Summer Olympics, a dream that will become a reality a few days from now in London.

"When I won my first nationals, I started hearing about the older guys qualifying for the Olympics," he recalls. "That's when I decided, 'I want to go to the Olympics one day.'"

Now 24, his road to the Games has taken several twists and turns. He left the sport for two years in high school because he wanted to be a normal teenager and have fun with his friends,

Quoted

"I'm very excited. It's something I've been waiting for my whole life. I'm focused more than ever and I'm ready."

North Preston boxer Custio Clayton, on competing at the Summer Olympic Games in London

but he continued to train and always planned to go back.

"I knew the whole time I wasn't going to quit," he says. "The whole time I was taking a break, it was still on my mind."

Even having two children — the first at age 18 and the second at 22 — didn't sidetrack Clayton from his goal of getting to the Olympics. While being a father changed his life, he

says he never thought about quitting.

"I was young at the time, but I was still motivated," Clayton says. "I don't think anything would have stopped me from boxing."

After finishing high school, he got back in the ring and proceeded to win three straight national championships. He qualified for the Olympics this past May with a fifth-place finish in the 69-kilogram class at the American zone qualifiers in Brazil.

Clayton might have finished higher, but ran into two-time Olympian and eventual American zone winner Myke Carvalho of Brazil in the quarter-finals. He felt his loss to Carvalho could have gone either way, and that has him brimming with confidence.

"To me, I feel I can beat anybody they put in front of me," Clayton says.

Qualified — now what?

Boxer sets his sights on top of the podium

Custio Clayton's goal coming into the year was to qualify for the Olympics. With that achieved, he's reset his goals and is shooting for the top of the podium.

"Just to qualify is probably the best thing anybody can ask for," Clayton says. "But I achieved that goal already and I need to look forward and look something bigger. Next thing bigger than that is me actually winning gold — and that's all I've been thinking about." **MATTHEW WUEST/METRO**

Past glories

Nova Scotia's recent history at the Summer Olympics

Nova Scotia has a strong contingent of 11 athletes — including several medal contenders — competing in the Summer Olympics in London.

Here's a look at how the province's athletes performed in recent years.

2008 Olympics in Beijing

Eight Nova Scotians went to Beijing, and the highlight was unquestionably a bronze-medal win by Shubenacadie rower Tracy Cameron.

Then 33, Cameron, who only started rowing when she was 25, placed third in women's double sculls with Melanie Kok of St. Catharines, Ont.

The duo edged out Germany for bronze by four-one-hundredths of a second. The race was so close that, immediately after it was over, Cameron and Kok weren't even sure that they had won a medal.

"When we looked over, I could see that our bow ball was definitely in front of the Germans," Cameron said. "It was just making sure the judges were with us."



2004 Olympics in Athens



Paddlers were the story of the 2004 Olympics for Nova Scotia. Five of them formed more than half of the province's nine-athlete contingent, and Lake Echo's Steve Giles competed at his record fourth Olympics.

Giles was Nova Scotia's top finisher (fifth in the C-1 1,000 metres) while Halifax table-tennis standout Petra Cada, with partner Marie-Christine Roussy of Quebec, went to the third round in doubles.

2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia

Lake Echo's Steve Giles, one of seven Nova Scotians competing at the Olympics, was the only one to reach the podium. He raced to bronze in the C-1 1,000 metres.

"It was like a (culmination) of 20 years of effort," Giles said afterward. "Once you win an Olympic medal, that's something you'll remember all your life."



1996 Olympics in Atlanta



Ten Nova Scotians competed in Atlanta, and it was boxer David Defiagbon who took home the hardware, winning a silver medal in the heavy-weight division.

Defiagbon, who moved to Halifax in 1992 to escape religious repression in Nigeria, lost 20-2 on scorecards to Felix Savon of Cuba in the final.

"I've had my dream come true," he said after. "I was hoping for gold, but I didn't get the gold. I have the silver and I'm pleased with it."

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

Mills for sale. It's time for someone who 'understands' fashion to take over: Owner



Pedestrians walk past the Shops at Mills on Spring Garden Road in Halifax on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

Mills, the über-chic department store on Spring Garden Road, is up for sale.

Mickey MacDonald of Micco Companies, who purchased the store from the MacLellan family in 2007, announced he's selling the shop.

"Women's fashion has never been a core area of focus for Micco Companies, but Mills has always been such a major part of the downtown landscape — I wanted to keep the business alive," MacDonald said in a statement Wednesday. Requests for interviews from Micco Companies were not returned Wednesday.

MacDonald, who also owns the Chickenburger franchise, said the store is for sale, but is keeping the building on Spring Garden Road, the Shops of Mills. It's home to 12 retailers, including Lululemon, David's Tea and the Daily Grind Café.

"After five years and lots of hard work, I feel the time is right to pass the baton along to someone who understands and is passionate about fashion and beauty," MacDonald said.

MacDonald hired WBLI Chartered Accountants to find a buyer.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO



Owner steps up after suspicious bag stops traffic

Traffic was snarled for about three hours as Halifax Regional Police blocked off a section of Barrington Street near North Street on Wednesday. Someone reported an unattended computer bag left next to a vehicle in the parking lot of CFB Halifax just before noon. Military police investigated while Halifax Regional Police closed down the section of road as a precaution. The person who owned the bag stepped forward, and the issue was resolved. JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

Heavy rainfall

Beaches closed due to overflow at pumping stations

Black Rock and Dingle beaches have been closed until further notice due to the amount of rain in HRM Tuesday.

The heavy rainfall caused two pumping stations for the waste-water-collection system to overflow for over an hour. The beaches, located on the shoreline of the harbour within Point Pleasant Park and along the arm, are near the pumps.

When pumping stations overflow for an hour, protocol states the beaches must close until the water can be tested for contamination, said Cameron Deacoff of HRM's energy and environment department.

The water will be tested for E. coli bacteria. The bacteria level must be below 200 for the beaches to remain open.

Deacoff said the beaches will hopefully be open again by the weekend.

KATE HOWELL/FOR METRO



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Sharing cultural ties and advice helps foreign students succeed

When international student Jessica Li arrived from China to study commerce at the University of British Columbia, she felt at ease in her peaceful new environment. "I guess I can adapt quickly, since I transferred schools three times when I was a child, and I studied alone in England at age 11," reflects Jessica, who readily settled into Canadian student life.

But Jessica does recall one decision she wished she made differently during her first days in Canada: "I thought that any nearby bank would do, so I opened an account without shopping around." She realized her error later, when she applied for a secured credit card at her bank and waited two months before discovering they had lost her security deposit.

Disappointed by that experience, Jessica turned to Scotiabank and its on-campus UBC Branch, where she was impressed by their advice-based approach to students, including the service offered by Henry Yeh, a Personal Banking Officer. "We talked like friends, since we shared an Asian background and he didn't pressure me with products," says Jessica, describing their half English/half Chinese conversation.

Henry took time to describe the **Scotiabank StartRight®** Program¹ for International Students, which includes worry-free banking solutions for persons studying in Canada. For Jessica, the **Student Banking Advantage®** Plan² with unlimited debit transactions, and a **Scotia®** U.S. Dollar Daily Interest Account³ were appealing, as well as an unsecured credit card⁴, especially after her long wait at her previous bank. Jessica now knows that international students can actually apply for a Canadian account in China through China Everbright Bank, or through select Scotiabank branches in India and Mexico before coming to Canada, to simplify the arrival process.

With her finances in order, Jessica tackled her next challenge: how to help local international students, as well Canadian-born Chinese students, leverage their studies to build trans-Pacific career opportunities. Her solution: she co-founded a campus BizChina Club to help students network and meet business leaders on both continents.

With guest speakers who help the club's 85 members learn about opportunities in Canada and China, the group also hosts an annual competition in which four-person teams solve business case scenarios. Jessica even enlisted Scotiabank's Henry Yeh to serve on the judging panel.

After two years in Canada, Jessica has solid advice for others: "International students should get involved in more campus activities.

That means exploring the different clubs and finding which ones interest you and could help you later." She offers the same counsel regarding banks, adding that, "I didn't compare banks, but you should do your research into the kind of service they offer and pay attention to how they communicate with you."

By finding friends and allies in Canada – including her banker – who share cultural links, and a willingness to support each other, Jessica is optimistic about the future: "You can take charge and create your own connections to help build your future in Canada, China or anywhere you go."

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Violent offender**Man wanted on parole warrant back in custody**

Police say a man they had warned the public to be on the lookout for and who they considered a risk to the public is back in custody. On Tuesday, Halifax police issued a warrant for the arrest of Jeremy William Coleman, 19, after he allegedly broke his parole. He was previously

convicted of violent offences.

But just after midnight Wednesday, police say, Coleman was taken back into custody without incident at an address in Dartmouth. According to court documents, Coleman was last scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 11 in Truro, but he didn't show up. He was due in court to face charges of trafficking a credit card, forgery, impaired driving, three charges of failure to attend and one breach of probation.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Jeremy Coleman CONTRIBUTED

Porche driver**Man charged with stunting**

An extra 60 kilometres per hour cost a driver his licence for a week and a fine of \$2,412. RCMP said they clocked a 48-year-old Halifax man driving in a Porche at 170 km/h in a 110 km/h zone on Highway 104 in Cumberland County on Tuesday. It was raining and the roads were wet at the time. METRO

Cape Breton**Boy, 14, hurt in hit-and-run**

Police in Cape Breton are investigating a hit-and-run involving a truck and bicycle that injured a 14-year-old boy. Investigators were called to the accident in Glace Bay on Tuesday evening. They say the boy was riding his bike when he was struck. He suffered non-life-threatening injuries to his leg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Car crash**Mother of cabinet minister killed**

The woman who died in a single-vehicle crash Tuesday in Central West River was the mother of Natural Resources Minister Charlie Parker, according to his Pictou West constituency office. Grace Parker died from injuries sustained after her car plunged down a steep embankment.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Winds of fortune sweep Strait area

Nova Scotia Tall Ships. Special guests to deliver economic boost during uncertain time

Strait-area merchants are hoping a two-day visit by the tall ships will provide a much-needed boost to the area's battered economy.

Despite windy and somewhat wet conditions at times, a steady stream of people went to the Port Hawkesbury waterfront Wednesday for the first

day of the Nova Scotia Tall Ships 2012 visit, which continues Thursday.

The event comes as residents of the Strait area await word on the fate of the region's largest employer, the former NewPage paper mill, which shut down in September, throwing hundreds of people out of work. Parker Stone, president of the Strait Area Chamber of Commerce, said it has been a tough summer for the retail sector.

"Hopefully with the tall ships this week, we'll get a little boost," he said.

CAPE BRETON POST

A well-timed boost

"It creates some excitement, but also, for the business-people and the community, I would say it has put \$3 million to 4 million in sales for small businesses in our town."

Port Hawkesbury Mayor Billy Joe MacLean



Captain Constable takes on youth

Const. Geoff Stark of the Halifax Regional Police dribbles a soccer ball past a group of kids, including 14-year-old Micheal Nearing, right, at Wickwire field on the Dalhousie University campus on Wednesday. The game was part of Halifax Regional Police Sports Pals, a one-day soccer camp for youth. JEFF HARPER/FOR METRO

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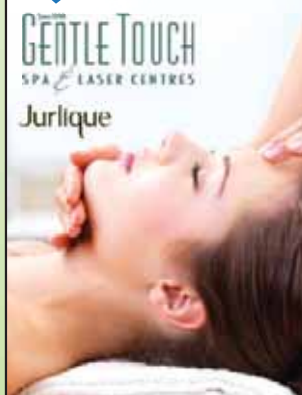
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A damaged vehicle from clashes between Free Syrian Army soldiers and Syrian government troops is seen at the border town of Azaz, north of Aleppo, on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/TURKPIX

Ban Ki-moon urges world to stop the 'slaughter' of Syrians

UN. General-secretary says world failed to prevent similar tragedy in Bosnia, calls for Assad to step down

UN General-Secretary Ban Ki-moon said Wednesday the world must unite in its response to Syria's civil war and do all it can to stop what he called the slaughter taking place there.

Speaking in Sarajevo, Ban said other countries intervened in Libya and the Ivory Coast to stop widespread killing there, but failed during Bosnia's 1992-95 war to prevent Bosnian Serbs from killing more than 8,000 Muslim Bosniaks in Srebrenica while the town was officially under UN protection.

But Ban did not say in his speech exactly what the international community should

Quoted

'Quite simply, we must do better at seeing atrocities coming and telling it like it is. We cannot take refuge behind strong words and weak action.'

Ban Ki-moon in a speech to Bosnia's parliament

do in Syria beyond already calling for Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down. He also did not criticize Russia and China by name for vetoing a Western-backed UN resolution threatening Assad's regime with sanctions.

"We must work to prevent and respond to grave violations of international humanitarian law. That is why we acted in Libya. We acted in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast). Today, the international community

is being tested in Syria," Ban said in a speech to Bosnia's Parliament.

As he spoke, Syrian tanks attacked insurgents in Aleppo, Syria, in an effort to end a five-day rebel fight to take the city. Activists say that Syria's 16-month-old uprising has killed 19,000 people.

The UN chief urged the international community to act together to take what he called "meaningful action."

"Without unity, there will be more bloodshed. More deadlock means more dead," Ban said. "That is why, here in the heart of a healing Bosnia and Herzegovina, I make a plea to the world: Do not delay. Come together. Act. Act now to stop the slaughter in Syria."

An international airstrike campaign in Libya last year helped its rebels end the 40-year erratic leadership of strongman Moammar Gadhafi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biological weapons

'Post-Assad Syria' talks underway

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says discussions about a "post-Assad Syria" are underway, including what to do about the stockpile of chemical and biological weapons held by the country's regime.

Baird said Canada is working with allies to ensure the weapons don't fall into the wrong hands as the conflict reaches a climax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Civilian population

Aleppo attacks 'heinous,' White House says

The White House says the Syrian government's assault on Aleppo with tanks and airplanes illustrates "the depth of depravity" of President Bashar Assad's regime.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Assad was used his forces to "perpetrate heinous violence" against the city's civilian population.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fear

Israelis line up for gas masks

Israelis rushed to get government-issue gas masks Wednesday, the latest sign of mounting fears that Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles could be used against them as the crisis there deepens.

Syria threatened to unleash chemical and biological weapons if faced with foreign attack. Syria is believed to have nerve agents and mustard gas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former U.S. lawmaker Giffords on first trip abroad since shooting

CERN. Giffords, who used to head U.S. space sub-committee, was accompanying astronaut husband to European physics lab

Former U.S. congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords toured a European particle-physics laboratory Wednesday, cheerfully facing reporters but saying little during her first trip abroad since being shot in the head last year.

Giffords was accompanying her husband, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, on a visit to the European Center for Nuclear Research. The lab, known as CERN, had assembled a \$2-billion cosmic-ray detector that Kelly and his team carried to the International Space Station in May 2011.

That mission came just months after Giffords, a lawmaker from Arizona, was shot by a gunman in a Jan.



Former U.S. congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her astronaut husband, Mark Kelly, in the French Alps on Monday. MIKE STRIUK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8, 2011, rampage that killed six and wounded 13 outside a Tucson supermarket. Since then, Giffords has undergone intensive therapy and made dramatic progress, but she also decided to leave her seat in Congress to focus on her recovery.

During a press conference Wednesday, Kelly joined CERN officials and four other astronauts in recalling the delicate task of installing the seven-ton Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer on the space station so that it could scan the universe for signs of dark matter and anti-matter. Kelly commanded the mission, which was the final flight of Space Shuttle Endeavour.

Nobel laureate Samuel Ting, a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the principal investigator for the CERN-based project, said the detector is functioning "perfectly" and an international team of 600 scientists has now collected data from 18 billion cosmic rays.

Giffords, a Democrat, served on the House Science and Technology Committee, and took on NASA affairs while heading the space sub-committee. Ting singled her out for praise because of her support for the U.S. space program. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Speaking up in the fight against AIDS

Mo Barry, an HIV-positive delegate from Gambia, tries to yell over the speakers into a dead microphone as he protests during a session called "The U.S. Congress and the Global AIDS Epidemic" on Wednesday at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coahuila state

Mine blast kills seven in Mexico

Emergency personnel recovered the bodies of seven miners killed in a gas explosion Wednesday at a coal mine in northern Mexico. The miners suffered severe burns and were crushed by falling rock. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Florida

Bond denied in hazing case

A judge has denied bond to former Florida A&M University band member Caleb Jackson charged in the hazing death of drum major Robert Champion, who died in November after being beaten on a bus in Orlando. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Myanmar

Suu Kyi calls for ethnic rights

Myanmar opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi used her first speech in parliament Wednesday to call for laws protecting the rights of the country's impoverished ethnic minorities. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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Greek athlete expelled over racist tweets

Track. Olympian's apologies come too late as politicians call for her removal

Triple jumper Voula Papachristou was expelled from Greece's Olympic team Wednesday for her comments on Twitter mocking African immigrants and expressing support for a far-right party.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee said Wednesday that Papachristou had been excluded from the team "for statements contrary to the values and ideas of the Olympic movement."

"It's the same as violating fair play," Isidoros Kouvelos, the head of Greece's Olympic mission, told Greece's Skai. "We are not here just to get medals, but to promote the Olympic ideals, to show our character."

Papachristou's Twitter ac-

Damage control

"We are not here just to get medals, but to promote the Olympic ideals."

Isidoros Kouvelos, head of Greece's Olympic mission

count contained several retweets and links promoting the views of Golden Dawn, a formerly marginal extreme-right party.

But it was her attempt at a joke Sunday that went viral. Commenting on the widely reported appearance of Nile-virus-carrying mosquitoes in Athens, Papachristou wrote: "With so many Africans in Greece, the West Nile mosquitoes will be getting home food!!!"

After the ensuing uproar, Greece's Olympic committee banned their athletes from using social media to express personal opinions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Greece's Voula Papachristou at the women's triple-jump final at the European Athletics Championships in Helsinki, Finland. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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London Games. Saudi Arabia sending first women to Olympics

The two women who will become the first female athletes to compete for Saudi Arabia at the Olympics have walked very different paths that will meet at the London Games.

One is a distance runner raised in California who has spent little time in Saudi Arabia but hopes to become a "big inspiration" for women in the kingdom, which severely restricts women in public life and effectively bans them from sports.

The other practises judo, but she has hardly ever left Saudi Arabia and has never competed.

While Sarah Attar was running cross-country for her high school in the United States, Wojdan Ali Seraj Abdulrahman Shahrkhani was watching judo on television and listening to her brothers talk about it.

Then one day she told her father, a judo coach and an international referee in the sport, that she wanted to train.

"She said, 'I want to be like you, I want to become very good,'" her father, Ali Seraj Abdulrahman Shahrkhani, told The Associated Press. "I said, 'OK,

you want to train? I will coach you at home."

Saudi Arabia is allowing them to compete after the International Olympic Committee and human-rights groups put intense pressure on the kingdom to end its practice of sending all-male teams to the Olympics.

After Qatar and Brunei announced they would send women, Saudi Arabia would have been the only country with no women on the team. Instead, the London Games will be the first in Olympic history in which women are represented in every national delegation.

Women in Saudi Arabia cannot register for sports clubs or league competitions. They are banned from entering national trials, which makes it impossible for them to qualify for international competitions, including the Olympics.

Neither Attar or Shahrkhani technically qualified, but they received special invitations from the IOC "based on the quality of the athletes," IOC chief Jacques Rogge said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympic thrift

Egypt athletes sport knockoffs

The tracksuits and bags of Egypt's Olympic team are emblazoned with the familiar Nike and Adidas logos, and the country's committee chairman says that's good enough — even though they're fakes.

"We signed with a Chinese distributor in light of Egypt's economic situation," Gen. Mahmoud Ahmed Ali told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Ali said the real thing was just too expensive, and the state of Egypt's battered finances led him to opt for the counterfeit gear, which he said was "sufficient."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea

Organizers apologize for flag-display mix-up

London Olympic organizers mistakenly displayed the South Korean flag on a jumbo screen instead of North Korea's before a women's soccer match Wednesday, prompting the North Koreans to refuse to take the field for nearly an hour.

The flag flap began during player introductions when a North Korean player was introduced along with a shot of the South Korean flag.

The match against Colombia was delayed for more than an hour, and organizers apologized for the error. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LGBT

Scotland to legalize gay marriage

Scotland's government has announced plans to legalize same-sex marriages. The measure has backing from the major Scottish political

parties. It follows a public consultation on the issue. When enacted, Scotland could become the first part of the U.K. to allow same-sex marriages. The U.K. government is awaiting the results of a public consultation before taking further steps.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ingenuity

Use of legal synthetic drugs up

People are inventing so many new, legal ways to get high that U.S. lawmakers can't seem to keep up. Over the past two years, the country

has seen a surge in the use of synthetic drugs made of legal chemicals that mimic the dangerous effects of cocaine, amphetamines and other illegal stimulants. Some are imported cheaply from China or India. The drugs have been linked to bizarre and violent behaviour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

National security

Surveillance info no longer public

The curtains at Canada's most secretive federal agency have been drawn a little tighter. The government has quietly stopped telling

Canadians about the annual priorities of the national electronic eavesdropping agency, meaning scant details of its mission, once public, are now classified. For years, a section of the Defence Department's plans and priorities report spelled out agency priorities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gun sales surge across U.S.

Colorado theatre massacre. While the shooting has stirred debate on gun control, Washington stays mum

Firearms sales are surging after last week's Colorado theatre massacre as buyers fear that politicians may use the shooting to seek new restrictions on owning weapons.

Some Democratic lawmakers in Congress cited the shooting as evidence of the need for tougher gun control laws — particularly a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines. Congress, however, hasn't passed strict legislation in more than a decade, and leaders in Washington show no sign of bringing up such measures any time soon.

In Colorado, where Friday's

shooting killed 12, gun sales jumped in the three days that followed. The state approved background checks for 2,887 people who wanted to purchase a firearm — 25 per cent more than the average Friday-to-Sunday period in 2012 and 43 per cent more than the same interval the week prior.

Dick Rutan, owner of Gunners Den in Arvada, Colo., said requests for concealed-weapon certification "are off the hook." His course in gun safety, required for certification for a concealed-weapons permit in Colorado, has drawn double the interest since Friday.

"What they're saying is, they want to have a chance. They want to have the ability to protect themselves and their families if they are in a situation like what happened in the movie theatre," Rutan said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Actor Christian Bale and his wife, Sibi Blazic, at a site dedicated to Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6, the youngest of the 12 victims of Friday's mass shooting, at a memorial in Aurora, Colo., on Tuesday. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oldest victim

First funeral held

A dad who took his teenage children to the new Batman movie and was killed when a gunman opened fire on the theatre was mourned Wednesday, the first memorial service for a victim of the shooting.

Fifty-one-year-old Gordon Cowden was the oldest of the 12 people killed. His teenage children escaped unharmed. A family statement described him as a "true Texas gentleman" who loved the outdoors.

Later this week, families of other victims plan to say their final goodbyes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea. Mystery woman is wife of leader

North Korea ended weeks of speculation Wednesday by confirming that the mystery woman beside young leader Kim Jong Un at recent public events is indeed his wife, "comrade Ri Sol Ju." The news

was buried in a state TV report about Kim's tour of an amusement park, delivered casually by a newscaster who gave no details about Ri, including how long she and Kim have been married. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London. Boy flies to Italy without ticket, passport

The 11-year-old boy didn't have a passport, didn't have a ticket, didn't have a boarding pass, and got all the way from England to Italy on his own.

For him, the 1,700-kilometre journey was a great

adventure. "He was chatting away about being off by himself," and passengers alerted the cabin crew, Russell Craig, a spokesman for Manchester Airport, said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal. Public funeral for Lin to be held today

A public funeral will be held Thursday for Jun Lin, whose slaying grabbed national attention after his body was dismembered and parts were mailed to two Canadian cities.

The service will be held at a

Montreal funeral home.

Lin studied computer science at Concordia University, which is helping raise funds for his family and is setting up an award in his memory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Beijing. Mishandled floods cause public to question government

Beijing's mayor is apparently still on track to be promoted to China's powerful decision-making body despite public questioning of the city government's handling of floods that left at least 37 dead.

Mayor Guo Jinlong and one of his vice-mayors resigned, state media reported Wednesday, in what is likely a routine reshuffling. The announcement came as more rain was forecast to hit Beijing and amid signs that the death toll from last weekend's storms could jump higher.

Saturday's flooding was an embarrassment for China's capital, which spent billions of dollars modernizing the city while apparently neglecting its drainage systems. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Weird weather

- Saturday's heavy rain was unusual in normally dry Beijing. On Wednesday evening, more heavy rain fell on the capital as forecast by the Beijing Meteorological Bureau, which warned of possible flash flooding and mudslides in the capital's outskirts.

ital, which spent billions of dollars modernizing the city while apparently neglecting its drainage systems. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Vehicles damaged in a resort near Beijing on Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Canadian discovery

Western-Arctic crater confirmed

Canadian researchers say they've discovered a 25-kilometre-wide meteorite crater in the western Arctic.

The crater was found two years ago, but it took that long to properly confirm exactly what it was.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Circumcision

Rabbis warn of new restrictions

A group of Orthodox rabbis warned Wednesday that the practice of infant circumcision could face further restrictions in Europe after hospitals cited a German ruling that it could amount to criminal bodily harm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mother of police shooting victim condemns protests

Demonstration.

Violence breaks out at peaceful rally as crowds storm city hall meeting, blocking a nearby intersection

The mother of a man who was shot by Anaheim, Calif., police officers has condemned violent protests against the killing, saying Wednesday that she did not want them to become her son's legacy.

"I watched as my son took his last breath. I watched as his heart stopped beating for the last time," Genevieve Huizar said, breaking into sobs. "Please, please, please stop the violence. It's not going to bring my son back, and this is the worst thing any mother could go through."

Her news conference followed a fourth day of violent protests over Saturday's police shooting of Manuel Diaz, and the Sunday death of another man.

As many as 1,000 demonstrators surged through downtown Tuesday night, smashing shop windows, setting trash fires and hurling rocks and bottles at police, authorities said.

Huizar said her family has not participated in any violence.

At an earlier news conference, Mayor Tom Tait said the U.S. attorney's office had agreed to review the officer-involved shootings and that he planned to meet with members of that office and the FBI on Friday.

The shootings and resulting demonstrations marred the im-



Genevieve Huizar, the mother of Manuel Diaz, who was shot to death by Anaheim police, breaks down after pleading for a stop to the violence at a news conference in Santa Ana, Calif., Wednesday. **DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Quoted

"Please, please, please stop the violence. It's not going to bring my son back."

Genevieve Huizar, mother of Manuel Diaz

age of the Orange County city, which is home to Disneyland and the Angels baseball team, but also has neighbourhoods teeming with gritty apartments.

The violence downtown spread into Wednesday morning and left 20 stores with shattered windows.

Twenty-four people, including four minors, were arrested on suspicion of crimes ranging from failure to disperse to assault with a deadly weapon, po-

lice Chief John Welter said. Video showed knots of young men and women looting a T-shirt store.

Some 300 police from Ana-

heim and surrounding communities were called in and riot-clad officers used batons, pepper balls and beanbag rounds.

Welter has said that Diaz was shot after two officers approached three men who were acting suspiciously in an alley before running away. One officer chased Diaz to the front of an apartment complex.

The chief would not say what led the officer to shoot Diaz. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Take Time to Check Your Flight



From August to mid-November, runway extension work will be ongoing at Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

While this is the best time to complete the construction, extreme weather – such as low visibility or high winds – can potentially disrupt flights during this time. And in Nova Scotia weather conditions can change in a minute.

So if you're visiting Halifax Stanfield International Airport to catch or meet a plane this summer and fall, **check with your airline.**

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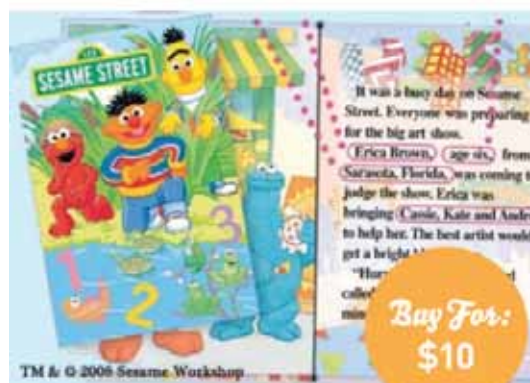
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Singing a different tune. Lady Gaga sued for \$10M by toy company over doll deal

A toy company is suing Lady Gaga for more than \$10 million US, claiming the pop star sabotaged a deal to make a doll in her likeness that would play snippets of her music.

In a suit filed in New York City on Tuesday, MGA Entertainment, the maker of the popular Bratz doll line, said it paid a \$1-million advance to the company that handles Gaga's merchandizing and spent a mint racing to meet deadlines to ship the dolls this summer.

The dolls were to feature some of the singer's outlandish costumes, as well as a "voice chip" with samples of her songs.

But the toy maker said the plan was derailed in the spring when the merchandiser, Bravado International, abruptly tried to back out of the part of the deal allowing the dolls



Lady Gaga THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to use the singer's music. MGA said Bravado then tried to delay sales of the doll until next year, when Gaga's new album is expected to be released.

The toy company claimed t h e

singer's representatives ultimately stopped co-operating with the project while she went on a world tour. MGA said her refusal to sign off on the final doll designs is jeopardizing \$28 million in expected revenue from the fall shopping season and holding up orders from 10 countries.

A representative for Lady Gaga called the lawsuit "ill-conceived" and said there was "no legitimate reason" to drag the singer into a dispute primarily between MGA and Bravado, a subsidiary of Universal Music Group.

Bravado issued a statement through a spokesman calling the lawsuit "meritless."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIM turns to movies for PlayBook

Tech troubles.

Research in Motion takes yet another hit as New York Times dumps BlackBerry app

Can Hollywood blockbusters help save the PlayBook?

BlackBerry maker Research in Motion has launched a new movie-store app for owners of its tablet, which has struggled to gain market share since it launched last year.

The lack of a movie store and the lack of native email were two of the chief criticisms of the tablet when it was first launched. The email issue was solved this February with the unveiling of the new PlayBook 2.0 operating system.

The BlackBerry Video Store, run by Rovi Entertainment,

No lag time

"Customers ... can also begin watching media as soon as they start to download a file. They won't have to wait for the entire file to transfer before they can begin enjoying great entertainment," said spokesman Nick Manning in an emailed statement.

ment, was launched in the U.S. earlier this year, but made its Canadian debut Wednesday.

According to a spokesperson, users can sample before they purchase, with movie and TV trailers available free of charge. Happy Feet 2 and Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows were among the thousands of movies available for rent or purchase.

Meanwhile, RIM's BlackBerry took a hit in the content department Wednesday with news the New York Times was jettisoning its BlackBerry app, while keeping its iPhone and Android apps.

RIM executive Martyn Mallick said BlackBerry is still a good way for newspapers to engage their readers, despite the NYT decision.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Real estate. Prices may fall by 25 per cent: Report

A new report suggests that if the Canadian real-estate market continues to cool, house prices could see substantial declines next year and could fall by as much as 25 per cent over the long term.

Capital Economics economist David Madani says a housing correction is inevitable and prices will decline by 25 per cent, with declines beginning next year.

He says home sales have dropped four per cent in the past two months and the trend is likely to continue given tightened mortgage rules.

And given that there is usually a lag between a drop in home sales activity and prices, Madani believes a decline in home prices could come in five to nine months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Media. Newsweek reviewing its future

The head of the company that owns Newsweek says the publication is examining its future as a weekly print magazine.

During a conference call with analysts Wednesday, IAC/InterActiveCorp chairman Barry Diller said that while Newsweek's brand is strong around the world, producing a weekly news magazine in print form isn't easy.

Diller said IAC is examining all options for Newsweek and will have a plan in the coming months. He said little about what those options were.

Short of going online-only, Newsweek could publish fewer print editions.

"I can't tell you in what ways it will be different, but it will be different," Diller said during the call, which was held to discuss IAC's quarterly earnings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A PREVIEW OF OLYMPIC PROPORTIONS



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

How will London cope this week as it's hit with pollution, traffic congestion and rabid media attention for the first time in history?

This and other questions will be answered as the Triple-X Olympiad officially gets underway Friday. We don't trust you to watch the right events and have the proper emotional reaction to them, so here's a list of the biggest storylines we demand you watch out for.

Are they ready? The Olympics are home to some dependable traditions, and one of the most consistent is the Lamenting of the Games. Before every Olympics, the media make it sound like the runners will have their times slowed by wet cement and divers will be jumping into empty swimming pools, their falls broken by contractors desperately trying to get the host city ready.

In London, the biggest problem appears to be security, which was thrown into shambles when it was revealed that a key security firm didn't have enough people and was handing out sashes that said "hall monitor" to anybody who asked.

Now they've called in the army, because nothing makes people feel secure like soldiers in the streets.

If things work out, the media will call it a miracle of Olympic proportions. If things don't work out, the media will call it a catastrophe of Olympic proportions. (We're on tight deadlines.)

Open questions. The opening ceremony has become an important show of national pride for the host country. Can Britain's gymnasts and interpretive dancers do justice to Britain's food, emotion and weather? One organizer gave a tantalizing hint when he promised "more shades of grey than you've ever seen."

All-time record? If American swimmer Michael Phelps dominates, he'll become the most decorated Olympian ever. This will be a major embarrassment for Canada, because Phelps will surpass the total distance travelled by Canada's submarine fleet.

Hoop dreams. It promises to be a special moment when the world puts aside its differences, joins hands and prays for the humiliating defeat of the U.S. basketball team. The chance to cheer against Kobe Bryant and LeBron James simultaneously is rare and should be cherished.

Star watch. World-famous athletes won't be the only celebrities, as entertainment superstars descend on London including uber-couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. Watch for North Korean athletes wandering near Jolie in hopes she'll adopt them.

Whither Canada? Sportswriters went all gooey during the Vancouver Games about how Canada had finally come of age — just like we did during Vimy Ridge, the Second World War, Expo '67, Summit Series '72 and that "Joe Canadian" Molson commercial. I thought that was mostly hooey because Canada won the most gold medals; it's easy to stand up loud and proud when you're winning. Since Canada doesn't do as well at the Summer Olympics, here's our big chance to reveal our true patriotism. Otherwise we're just Phoenix Coyotes fans on a playoff run.

That said, I trust we'll see lots of Canadians standing on the podium. Assuming it's constructed on time.



Britain's government opted Tuesday to deploy 1,200 more troops to protect Olympic venues, a move that reflects a lack of confidence in a private security contractor. But let's not stop there. There's much more cause for concern — too much to keep track of — so we highlight the best of the worst. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travelling in London an Olympic sport?



CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summer Games

VIP lanes, the Tube cause delays

Wednesday saw an uncertain test of the British capital's Olympic transport plan, as lanes reserved for Olympic VIPs came into force two days before the start of the Games and the city's creaky subway system struggled with glitches.

Traffic jams blocked some of the main routes into the city as the wildly unpopular "Games Lanes" took effect. The 48 kilometres of lanes are to operate from 6 a.m. to midnight throughout the Games, and cars or taxi cabs

that stray into them face a \$200 US fine.

Thousands of London drivers have switched to public transport, only to encounter severe delays on several underground subway lines caused by power-supply problems and signal failures. Severe delays were reported Wednesday on the city's Central and Hammersmith subway lines.

Transportation is London's weak spot: Traffic often clogs up on its narrow, historic roads, bus schedules can change at a moment's notice, and the famous Underground suffers from daily delays and infrastructure that in parts is more than a century old.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Criticism over designation

- The International Olympic Committee had specifically demanded VIP road lanes be created after learning lessons from previous Games.
- In London, some of the loudest opposition to the Olympic VIP lanes has come from the city's cabbies, who have staged two recent demonstrations that brought central London traffic to a standstill. They say being banned from Olympic lanes jeopardizes their business.

Hanging on a wire

Cable car stranded above Thames

Cable-car passengers got plenty of time to view London's sights after the system linking two Olympic venues broke down and left them stranded above the River Thames Wednesday.

The cable-car system, dubbed the Emirates Air Line, opened last month and links the O2 Arena in Greenwich — which will host Olympic basketball and gymnastics — and the ExCel exhibition centre, where boxing will take place. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Twitter

@CoryMonteith: it's true, I'm in Halifax doing a movie. love it here! restaurant/coffee shop recommendations gratefully accepted.

@b3llend: What looks like mist around Halifax is actually cigarette smoke and stupidity

@basedshipley: Walking down quinquipool this early is actually very nice. Goodmorningggg

@trudi_e: Anyone want to go into business with me and operate an Aquabus service in the harbour? Bedford/Dartmouth/Hfx. I don't know boats.

@AntonBerry902: Can't wait to go swimming with my Brain Power crew today @ Cole Harbour Place

@mehneronfire: the countdown-to-vacation ticker, has begun. Only a few things to do in between, like #PRIDE HFX lol #busybee

Step into Depp at film festival



Johnny Depp plays wacky confectioner Willy Wonka in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, screening Aug. 3 at the festo. HANDOUT

Five flicks. alFresco filmFesto kicks off Summer of Johnny: Rolling in the Depp



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

On the back of last year's themed success with a selection of Bill Murray films, the hard-working programming staff for this season's alFresco filmFesto have decided on the eclectic and en-

tering talent of Johnny Depp.

Unlike last season, no efforts will be made to invite the star of this year's alFresco filmFesto to our waterfront. Though I continue to offer the other half of my bed to Mr. Depp should he grace us with his presence.

Rose Zack, film festival manager, shows that the selection of films slotted for this season will satisfy our Depp appetites.

"The expertise of our team managed to narrow it down to a selection that the public will like," she said. "Kids will like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, but then

for the parents you have *Edward Scissorhands*."

The latter will kick off the festival Friday night. For a suggested donation of \$5, film fans are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets and perhaps a snack down to the Halifax Seaport. The gates open at 8 p.m. and the show will project onto their giant screen after sundown.

Functioning under the umbrella of The Atlantic Film Festival, alFresco benefits from funding as well as its own connections made in part thanks to geography.

"Because of our location we've had great partnerships including Waterfront

Dates

Lineup for Summer of Johnny: Rolling in the Depp:

- Edward Scissorhands. July 27
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Aug 3

- Alice in Wonderland. Aug. 10

- What's Eating Gilbert Grape. Aug. 17

- Ed Wood. Aug. 24

Development, Nova Scotia Power and Port of Halifax," Zack said. "It all takes place around that area so they've been some of our key partners."

Speaking from experience, it is a great way to wind

down your week. Snuggled up with my blanket, surrounded by friends, and with my dog sleeping at my feet, I agree with Zack when she says, "It's more than a movie — it's an experience."

2 SCENE

On the web



TV's *Sister Wives* family challenges Utah bigamy law as unconstitutional



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Emotional connection.

Big cast has big friendships in new comedy about an alien invasion of suburban Ohio

NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News

One of the benefits of doing an ensemble comedy is catching up with old friends. At least, that's how it was on *The Watch* for Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn, who co-star with Jonah Hill and Richard Ayoade as concerned citizens investigating what turns out to be an alien invasion in their suburban Ohio neighbourhood.

Stiller and Vaughn previously squared off in *Dodgeball*, but here they're playing something a bit chummier.

"I love working with these guys. It's great to work with the people who make you laugh and who are funnier," Stiller admits. "Vince and I had a really fun time working on *Dodgeball* together and it was exciting to have a chance to do something.



Ben Stiller, Johnny Pemberton and Jonah Hill star in *The Watch*. MELINDA SUE GORDON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It had been a while for us, so it was exciting to have a chance to do something new together."

Reunions aside, Stiller also enjoyed letting loose in a comedy that didn't have the same restrictions as his more family-friendly fare.

"The fun thing for me is to be a part of a movie where

you don't have to worry," Stiller admits. "Being in an R-rated film, you can have a lot more freedom."

And that freedom doesn't just mean more violence and cursing, but it extends to how the characters are depicted as well, as the four men aren't forced into learning some sort of lesson or

personal growth.

"I don't think it was about having it all sort of tied up in bow. It was more about these guys hanging out and how they affected each other, but it wasn't like about teaching lessons or anything," Stiller says. "I do think there is sort of, you know, an emotional connection these guys

The Watch

Vince Vaughn adjusting to being a parent

- **Daughters.** In *The Watch*, Vince Vaughn's character has a rather argumentative relationship with an unruly teenage daughter trying to grow up too fast. In real life, Vaughn has just welcomed his first daughter. So did the movie give him any premonitions of troubles to come? "My daughter is just 19, 20 months now, so I'm along away from that," he admits. "Thankfully I'm a long, long way from answering any of those questions as far as being protective. But I have encouraged her to get on some scooters — motor scooters — motorized vehicles. That kind of stuff. I threw her in the pool, but she swam so it's fine."

member of their neighbourhood watch might not be: British actor and director Richard Ayoade, who directed last year's *Submarine* (executive-produced by Stiller), admits he felt like he stuck out a bit in the cast.

"I've never been in a film, not really," Ayoade admits. "My wife said — and she's right — it's going to look like I won a competition to be in a film with movie stars. And there were several days when I was like, 'Why are Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn and Jonah Hill looking at me? Oh! I'm in a scene with them. I ought to start trying to act back.' It's very surreal and I'm a huge fan of these people. It was a great pleasure for me to get to somewhat bring down the film by being in it."

Vaughn, of course, thinks Ayoade's self-deprecation is misplaced.

"Richard is so funny. It was so fun, he brought such an original voice and great ideas and is just funny in the movie," Vaughn says. "You get a bunch of guys together from different walks of life and at the end of the day there's a lot of laughter and a lot of camaraderie."

do have by ending up being together."

While Stiller, Vaughn and Hill are familiar faces to comedy audiences, the forth



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Love Community? NBC isn't sold on it

TV. At the Television Critics Association press tour, the struggling network said its focus is shifting to broader comedy

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

Can a monkey save NBC?

The network that routinely finishes last in ratings among the big four broadcast companies is in a state of transition, most obviously seen in its approach to comedy this fall.

Where NBC has been a haven for critically loved, cult-hit sitcoms that don't draw massive amounts of viewers, the network is now introducing comedies starring a lab-coat wearing monkey (Animal Practice) and babies raised by clueless, yet caring, dads (Guys with Kids.)

"We're going to transition with our comedy program-

ming and ... try to broaden the audience and broaden what the network does," Robert Greenblatt, chairman of NBC Entertainment, told journalists gathered at the Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Wednesday.

"Those Thursday comedies, which the critics love and we love, tend to be a bit more narrow than we'd ultimately like as we go forward."

Greenblatt was referring to shows like Parks and Recreation and 30 Rock, and more specifically, Community, which featured an entire episode that played out in the style of an 8-bit video game last season.

Though all three were renewed for next season, as of late Community has received little love from NBC, which fired the show's creator, ordered only 13 episodes, and pushed the show back to Fridays.

"The reason that we did 13 episodes of that and a couple of our other shows is because we really wanted to get more comedies on the schedule ...

which isn't to say we couldn't decide at some point to extend those seasons," Greenblatt said. "I would love nothing more than Community to have a following on Friday and to be able to continue it."

NBC offering even that amount of support to a similarly quirky new series doesn't appear likely. Greenblatt called those creatively robust, yet ill-performing sitcoms "a little bit more so-

phisticated than I think you might want for a real broad audience."

And what says "mass appeal" better than animals and babies?

"We didn't sit down and say, 'Let's find some shows with babies and animals everywhere,' but we did buy into visions from creators that we felt were funny, specific, emotional and original," said Jennifer Salke, NBC president.



Is Crystal the Monkey on Animal Practice doing to save NBC? GETTY IMAGES

Kiefer Sutherland. 24 movie will get made, sooner rather than later

Kiefer Sutherland says don't worry, Jack Bauer fans. That 24 movie will get made, sooner rather than later.

"Yeah, I don't want to do it with a cane," says the 45-year-old actor, who played the ruthless anti-terrorist agent Jack Bauer for eight seasons on the Fox action series.

Sutherland was at the Fox network's Television Critics Association summer press tour party Monday night to promote his latest series, Touch. It premiered last winter to good reviews but middle-of-the-pack ratings.

A script for the long-delayed 24 movie just wasn't ready in time for Sutherland to shoot it during the hiatus from Touch. Fox now has production penciled in for next spring.

Sutherland hopes his new series will be hard to schedule around for quite a while.

He enjoyed working on the 13-episode winter and spring run.

He felt the drama — about a father and his 11-year-old emotionally disturbed and mute son (played by David Mazouz) — was really hitting its creative stride by the end of that first season.

Executive producer Tim Kring (Heroes) says the stakes will be higher when the series returns this fall. Father and son will be on the run. A new character, played by Maria Bello (who starred last



Kiefer Sutherland
GETTY IMAGES

fall in the short-lived drama Prime Suspect), will join the cast, a move Sutherland could not be more excited about.

"She's phenomenal," he says. Bello will play a character with a child facing similar challenges. Conversations between the two struggling parents will help viewers understand things that were difficult to communicate and explain in season one, as Sutherland sees it.

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Maynard and Holm not sure about a television wedding

The Bachelorette.

Couple begins planning their life together as well as how their big day will play out

Emily Maynard's courtship with Jef Holm may have played out on national TV on ABC's *The Bachelorette*, but whether their wedding will be televised is still up in the air.

"I never in a million years thought I'd be the Bachelorette, so I've learned never say never, especially in public," Maynard said in an interview.

On Sunday's finale, the 26-year-old Maynard revealed she chose Holm, a 27-year-old entrepreneur from Salt Lake City, over racecar driver Arie Luyendyk Jr., the son of



Emily Maynard, left, and Jef Holm will begin their lives together. RICK ROWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"I've learned never say never, especially in public."

Emily Maynard
On having a television marriage

daughter, Ricki, to go back to school.

"I want to get there and hang out with her and get into daily life with her and with Emily. Figure it out together," said Holm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sharon Osbourne. Takes to Twitter to announce she is leaving Got Talent

Sharon Osbourne said Tuesday that she's ready to say goodbye to NBC's America's Got Talent, taking the network by surprise.

In a posting on Twitter, Osbourne addressed "my darling" fellow judge Howard Stern and said, "money is not the reason I'm not returning" to the show. Her tweet trailed off with "it's because" and didn't elaborate.

Her message was unexpected, NBC said following the announcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sharon Osbourne
GETTY IMAGES

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How did you find ScholarshipsCanada.com:
I found ScholarshipsCanada.com the way any student going on exchange would: by religiously combing through all scholarships possibly available! I found a contest I was eligible for and spoke frankly in front of my webcam. It seems to have paid off!

How has the award helped you:
With the money, I was able to pay for my plane ticket to Europe for an exchange program. I feel very privileged to benefit from this financial boost and hope to pass forward the beautiful gesture in many ways!

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Robert Pattinson. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Pattinson talks cheating

Robert Pattinson obviously won't be releasing a statement — he'll let some pretty young blond do the talking next week. So for now, all we've got is his April chat in Vanity Fair, where he conveniently discussed affairs.

"There's a thing I've never got: That is, why do

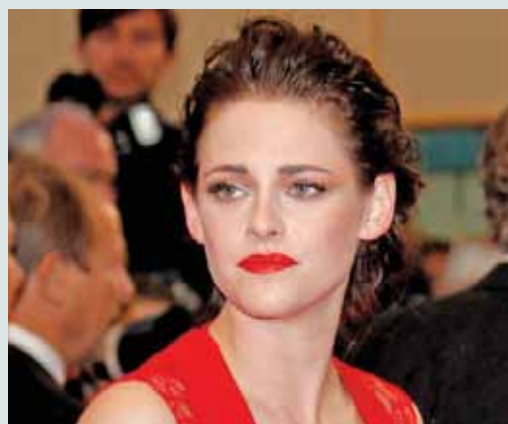
people cheat? I can understand the impulse," he says.

"But not how you can keep two relationships going at the same time for long. I'm not the casual-affair kind of guy. If I choose to be with someone, it's because I really want it. When I have a relationship, I'm 100 per cent into it."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Kristen Stewart 'deeply sorry' about affair

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

We always blamed Kristen Stewart's ever-present pout on her distaste for photographers. Maybe an extra weird rash. Possibly a Spanx situation. But we never suspected that the problem could be Robert Pattinson, her much more photogenic boyfriend and Twilight co-star.

It seems, however, that while Stewart's been parading down red carpets with Pattinson, she's also been having a fling with Rupert Sanders, her married Snow White and the Huntsman director.

Us Weekly has pretty incriminating photographs of the two snuggled up to each other in Los Angeles on July 17, just a few days

before Stewart and Pattinson attended the Teen Choice Awards together.

Witnesses tell RadarOnline that Sanders, 41, and Stewart, 22, "were hardly able to keep their hands off one another," as they drove around L.A., stopping occasionally to make out in parking lots.

Kristen, what do you have to say for yourself?

"I'm deeply sorry for the hurt and embarrassment I've caused to those close to me and everyone this has affected," she said in a statement released yesterday.

"This momentary indiscretion has jeopardized the most important thing in my life, the person I love and respect the most, Rob. I love him, I love him, I'm so sorry."

Kris, take it from us: Making creepy, inappropriate public appeals to Robert Pattinson in the gossip columns doesn't work. We've been trying for years, and he doesn't bite.



Rupert Sanders

Sanders' wife not warned

Not to be outdone, Rupert Sanders issued his own apology shortly after Stewart.

"I am utterly distraught about the pain I have caused my family," the director said in a statement. "My beautiful wife and heavenly children are all I have in this world. I love them with all my heart. I am praying that we can get through this together."

As for Sanders' wife, Liberty Ross, we doubt she's accepting the apology

anytime soon. The British model seemed to learn about the affair along with everyone else yesterday, and proceeded to have a mini Twitter meltdown.

Before deactivating her account, she followed @Us Weekly and tweeted quotes from Marilyn Monroe and Maya Angelou, then signed off with a simple "Wow" — the 2012 equivalent of waking up to the Love Actually DVD menu in a puddle of Ben and Jerry's.

'I did not cuss Janet out'

The dispute between members of the Jackson family over the location of matriarch Katherine Jackson apparently came to a head this week with an altercation between family members on the grounds of their Calabasas, Calif., estate, according to TMZ.

Janet, Jermaine and Randy Jackson stormed the house to confront the children of the late Michael Jackson — Prince, Paris and Blanket, leading to cursing and blows. The adults then reportedly attempted to coerce the kids into going to Arizona — where their legal guardian, Katherine,

is resting — against their will.

The ongoing troubles have prompted lawyers for Michael's estate to write an open letter expressing their concern.

"We are concerned that we do what we can to protect them from undue influences, bullying, greed and other unfortunate circumstances," executors John Branca and John McClain say in the letter.

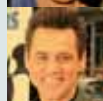
Meanwhile, Paris Jackson took to Instagram to refute claims of a fight, posting, "Dear TMZ, no one slapped anyone, and I did not cuss Janet out."

Twitter



@katyperry

I always love seeing one single piece of confetti fall at an indie show.



@JimCarrey

The violence within us is being fully exploited by the gun sellers in America. Let's end r addiction and entitlement to violence.



@Pink

As far as I'm concerned- Christmas prep has started. And I'm also now a member of the QVC. For real? Yes- For real. Yay!!!!!! Help!!!!!!



@ActuallyNPH

My favorite thing about Paris is the 'double kiss on the cheek' greeting. It is both intimate and disarming. I'm totally stealing that.

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Retro-inspired looks were seen throughout the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim 2013 in Miami Beach, where more than two dozen designers showcased their latest collections. Swimstyle specialists took a nod from days gone by, from high waist briefs and the pinup girl look of the 1950s to the Studio 54 and Dolce Vita eras of the '60s and '70s. Dive right in!

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Splash from the past



WHITE SANDS AUSTRALIA

Romantic looks were seen on the runway at White Sands Australia. "It's very, very girly," said designer Leah Madden. "I always try to do things very pretty but sexy and with an edge. But this year it's more pretty and more feminine."

Madden kept it simple for The Violet Hour collection. She used touches of ruffles, neon pastel colours (green) and a vintage floral print with large violets over a white palette to create the blissful looks.

DOLORES CORTES

Miami Beach was the inspiration for Spanish designer Dolores Cortes, who used vitamin colours and a touch of neon in her sophisticated collection.

Golden reflective laminates were superimposed on some pieces, while others had a mix of animal prints and bright stains to give the wild yet chic



look. There were a ton of prints, some with a tie-dye effect. Bikinis included a multi-coloured bandeau top with an animal print bottom. Multiple patterns took over a one-piece and a monikini with bright pops of colour, and crochet and mesh also made appearances.

LISA BLUE

Kicking off swim week was the Lisa Blue collection, where Australian designer Lisa Burke featured a collection of very different styles.

The Enchantress collection opened the show with a white monokini with gold trimmings. The blue colour of the ocean was also seen on the goddess-like models walking slowly — enchantedly — down the runway.

Karina Smirnoff of Dancing with the Stars picked up the pace as she danced in a bright pink, ruffled-top bikini and a Flamenco-style long skirt for the second Flamenco-inspired collection, which included a one-shoulder bikini top with ruffles on the bottom piece.



On the Web



Abby Larson, editor and founder of the stylish wedding website, on making your celebration Pinterest gold.

NICOLITA

The Nicolita collection can be described as a collection of sexy swimwear with curve-flattering styles reminiscent of Cuba's alluring 1940s era — but with a California twist.

The Havana Nights Collection by designer Nicole Di Rocco drew inspiration from her Cuban roots and experiences in Malibu with the help of singer Christina Milian. The collection had plenty of coverups that can transition from day to night, including a short layered animal-print skirt and high waisted blue pants.



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DESIGN CENTRE
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1

2

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3

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4

5

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5



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A prescription for chocoholics

Cookbook authors Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat spend a lot of time in the kitchen creating and testing recipes, but they also like to be pampered by their families.

These Rx Brownies With Fudge Frosting are great for when you want to sit back and get the little ones involved.

The decadent brownies, found in Bite Me, are a prescription for any chocoholic, say Albert and Gnat. They would make an ideal treat to cap a brunch or any time you need a chocolate fix.

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Coat a 33-by-23-cm (13-by-9-inch) baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Line with parchment paper.

2. For the brownies, in a microwave safe bowl, combine chocolate and butter. Melt on high heat for 1 minute, stir and melt for 30 seconds more or until chocolate and butter are melted and smooth.

3. In a large bowl, whisk sugar and eggs. Add chocolate mixture and flour, stirring until flour has dis-

appeared. Spread in prepared pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool in pan for 15 minutes before removing. Cool completely on wire rack before frosting.

4. Frosting: In a large saucepan, mix together sugar, cocoa powder, milk, butter and corn syrup. Heat to boiling, stirring frequently. Boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Let cool for 10 minutes. Whisk in icing sugar until smooth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/BITE ME TOO
BY JULIE ALBERT AND LISA GNAT

Ingredients

- 4 squares unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) butter
- 500 ml (2 cups) sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) flour

Fudge Frosting

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) cocoa powder, sifted
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) milk
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) corn syrup
- 250 ml (1 cup) icing sugar

Rx Brownies With Fudge Frosting



This recipe is ideal for a post-brunch dessert. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Book of the week

Take a bite out of easy & fun food



Having fun with food, family and friends is the focus of the cookbook Bite Me Too by sisters Julie Albert and Lisa Gnat.

The release is peppered with humour, trivia, pop culture references and user-friendly recipes that feature ingredients you have in your pantry or that can be picked up during your regular grocery store run.

Chapter headings in Bite Me Too include Amuse Me (appetizers), Fowl Me (poultry), Hook Me (fish and seafood) and Toss Me (salads). There are 176 recipes in total. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spiced And Grilled Angel Food Cake. For contrast, top with ice cream



This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. In bowl, combine strawberries and 2 tablespoons of sugar. Mix; set aside.

2. In bowl, use electric mixer to whip heavy cream until soft peaks form. Sprinkle in 2 tablespoons of sugar and the lemon zest (reserve lemon juice). Continue beating until stiff peaks form. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

3. Heat grill to medium-high.

4. In saucepan over medium heat, combine butter, lemon juice, cinnamon, cardamom and the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Heat, stirring, until butter melted and sugar has dissolved. Use pastry brush to coat all sides of cake slices with butter mix.

5. Place cake slices on grill and cook 30 seconds per side or until grill marks appear and cakes are toasted. Serve each slice topped with whipped cream and berries.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 quart strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 6 tbsp sugar, divided
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 4 tbsp butter
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
- 13-oz angel food cake, cut into 8 slices

Hockey

Picard signs with Czech KHL club

Former Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Alexandre Picard will be playing in the KHL next season.

Picard, who split last season between the Pittsburgh Penguins and the American Hockey League's Penguins, has signed with the Czech Republic's LEV Praha of the KHL for the 2012-13 campaign.

Terms of the deal weren't released.

Picard, 27, played in 17 games with the Penguins last season, recording four assists. In total, he has played in 253 NHL games, with stops also in Philadelphia, Tampa Bay, Ottawa, Carolina and Montreal.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Alexandre Picard HANDOUT

NHL

Bettman lays out league's proposal

Donald Fehr and the NHL players have a little more to mull over.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said the league tabled the remaining elements of its opening contract offer to the NHL Players' Association on Wednesday. It was an expansion on the opening proposal the league delivered July 13, which included a decreased share of hockey-related revenue, term limits on contracts and a 22 per cent salary rollback.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Arencibia breaks hand, expected to miss six weeks

Toronto Blue Jays catcher JP Arencibia is expected to miss about six weeks after fracturing his right hand in the second inning of Wednesday's 16-0 loss to the Oakland A's.

Arencibia appeared to injure the hand on a foul ball by Brandon Inge during Oakland's eight-run inning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Paul Casey plays out of the bunker during the second round of the British Open Golf Championship in Lytham St. Annes, England, on July 20. Casey will be participating in the TELUS World Skins game Monday and Tuesday at Glen Arbour Golf Course in Hammonds Plains. PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Casey ready for fun on and off course

Golf. PGA star teeing it up at TELUS World Skins Game at Glen Arbour Golf Club next week

ANDREW CALEY

halifax@metronews.ca

PGA Tour golfer Paul Casey may have never been to Halifax, but according to the rumours he's been hearing, we have a lot to live up to.

"I've heard great things. If we're not getting first class hospitality we're going to be disappointed," Casey laughed in a phone interview with Metro on Wednesday from the Hamilton Golf and Country Club, where he is competing at this week's RBC Can-

Quoted

"For me, selfishly, I get to experience a part of the world I've never been to before and go out there and play without a care in the world."

Paul Casey

adian Open.

Casey will be participating in the TELUS World Skins game along with Canadian Stephen Ames, Carl Pettersson, Lucas Glover and Jhonattan Vegas Monday and Tuesday at Glen Arbour Golf Course in Hammonds Plains.

Casey, who will be competing in the skins game for a second time, said he is looking forward to getting out there to just have fun and smash the ball around the course.

The Englishman has had a tough year on the PGA Tour missing five of six cuts while recovering from a dislocated shoulder he suffered last December.

"It's been frustrating, but I'm really excited about the future," he said. "I have everything I need to be successful, it's just a case of believing in myself and getting rid of worry."

The skins game is the perfect environment to not worry and just enjoy golf

while getting his game back on track, he said.

"It's exactly the sort of thing where I need to boost my confidence."

And Halifax golf fans are in for some great golf with an added kick, said Casey, about the famously entertaining event.

"We rarely get to have this much fun," he explained. "There will be good banter on the golf course and good interaction with the fans. It couldn't be better."

Get your tickets

Skins-game tickets are \$99 for a two-day pass and \$65 for a single day, plus service fees.



Raptors GM Bryan Colangelo.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors expected to name Halifax home for training camp this fall

The Toronto Raptors could soon be calling Halifax home — for one week, that is.

A press conference is scheduled for Thursday morning at the Canada Games Centre where it's expected to be announced that Canada's only NBA franchise will be holding its training camp in Halifax

this fall.

Halifax Rainmen president Andre Levingston was tight-lipped about the announcement when contacted by Metro on Wednesday, but said it would "be exciting."

"It's something that's going to be fantastic for our city and our province," he said. "This is

going to be big."

The rumour is Halifax beat out Montreal to host the team's training camp, as in the past, the Raptors have held it outside of Toronto. Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo is expected to be in Halifax for Thursday's announcement.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

4 SPORTS

Mobile sports



A day after matching the Philadelphia Flyers' \$5 US offer sheet for Shea Weber, the Nashville Predators were in celebration mode. But "the biggest signing in franchise history" for Nashville has forced the Flyers back to the drawing board. Scan the code for the story.

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Canada can't keep up with world champion in opener

Soccer. Coach Herdman calls loss to Japan a learning experience

Canada's women's soccer team opened its London Olympic campaign with a 2-1 loss to Japan on Wednesday, a result that left coach John Herdman "scratching one side" of his head and "feeling OK on the other."

Melissa Tancredi scored the lone goal for the No. 7 Canadians, who managed to battle back against the reigning World Cup champion. Japan took a 2-0 lead into half-time and had the Canadians on their heels most of the night.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game tonight; they're world champions and world champions for a reason," Herdman said afterward.

"But it's the first game in the tournament, there's another five to go for us hopefully, and I think we've learned some lessons tonight."

The game marked Canada's first competition of the Games, two days before the opening ceremonies in London.

The Canadians need to finish top-two in their pool — or be one of the two best third-

place teams — to advance to the quarter-finals of the 12-team tournament.

The Japanese squad that shocked the United States to win the World Cup last summer lived up to its billing, passing and moving with speed and precision.

"They're quick, they're crafty, they get in those tight little spaces that you don't think they can get into," said defender Lauren Sesselmann. "They're an incredible team."

Nahomi Kawasumi and team captain Aya Miyama scored for Japan.

Kawasumi sprinted onto a clever back-heel pass from Shinobu Ohno in the 33rd minute. Miyama scored on a header from a cross in the 44th minute to beat Canadian goalkeeper Erin McLeod.

Tancredi capitalized on the one really decent shot Canada had, connecting on a cross from Rhian Wilkinson in the 55th minute.

"At 2-0 down anything could have happened, we could easily have let the game go," said Canada's star striker Christine Sinclair. "But I think in the second half we came out and played pretty well. Gives us some confidence and in terms of goal difference, not a bad result against them."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada's Christine Sinclair, left, and Japan's Azusa Iwashimizu battle for the ball in Coventry on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hesjedal's 'one-man show' arrives in London



Canadian cyclist Ryder Hesjedal arrives at St. Pancras King's Cross train station in London on Wednesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ryder Hesjedal arrived at the Olympics to a crowd Wednesday. But the Giro d'Italia winner will largely be on his own Saturday in the men's road race.

While world champion Mark Cavendish can rely on the help of four British teammates, the 31-year-old from Victoria will be going it alone as Canada did not collect enough points to qualify any other riders.

But the focus was on Hesjedal on Wednesday as he walked into a Canadian media crush at St. Pancras International after getting off a train from Europe.

Quoted

"They've clearly shown how strong they are. They're going to take the initiative, they're going to control the race. So it will be everyone against them."

Ryder Hesjedal on the British cycling team led by Mark Cavendish and Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins

The six-foot-two, 159-pound Hesjedal arrived wheeling one of his own Cervelo bikes, neatly packaged in a giant canvas bag. His other rides had been shipped ahead of time.

The laid-back Hesjedal, under the spotlight at his third

Olympics, did his best to take all the attention in stride.

"It's exciting. This is a little overwhelming," said the former mountain biker. "But I've been training and focusing on this event. We'll see how I do Saturday and following in the

time trial."

Hesjedal had fellow Canadians Michael Barry and Svein Tuft on his side at the 2008 Games road race in Beijing, where Barry was eighth, Hesjedal 55th and Tuft 58th. But he will have to look to others to help him this time.

This time he is, in his words, "a one-man show." A good scenario for him is being part of a small group that breaks away from the field early.

"I can ride with a small group and there won't be many guys with teammates at that point," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doping

Nine banned as Games approach

Nine track athletes were suspended ahead of the London Olympics for doping, including three who were caught in retests of samples from last year's world championships, the IAAF said Wednesday.

The governing body

said six were caught in biological passport tests, which measure changes in an athlete's blood profile. The others were sanctioned after retroactive testing of blood and urine samples from the worlds in Daegu, South Korea.

Eight of the athletes received two-year suspensions, while one was handed a four-year ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

Morgan stars for U.S. in comeback win over France

Alex Morgan scored twice as the U.S. women's soccer team rallied from an early 2-0 deficit Wednesday to open its Olympics with a 4-2 win over France.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Megan Rapinoe jumps into Alex Morgan's arms on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

Federer, Azarenka named top seeds

The International Tennis Federation named Roger Federer and Victoria Azarenka the No. 1-seeded Olympic singles players. The ITF says it awarded the seedings based on the ATP and WTA rankings of July 23. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swimming



"We're a lot more laid back this time around, not only myself but as a team."

Fourteen-time gold medalist Michael Phelps on the U.S. swim team's outlook ahead of Olympic competition



Olympic diving: United we fall

Divers Ruoling Chen and Hao Wang of China practise synchronized diving during a training session Wednesday at the Aquatics Centre in Olympic Park in London. ADAM PRETTY/GETTY IMAGES

Despatie facing biggest Olympic challenge yet

Diving. But 27-year-old from Laval, Que., envisions 'better-than-ever' results despite recent head injury

Alexandre Despatie has never been the type to shy away from challenges. And more often than not, he's overcome them.

But on the eve of his fourth Olympics, the veteran diver admits the London Games will be the biggest challenge of his career.

Despatie, 27, is coming off a tough year. He missed most of 2011 because of bursitis and tendinitis in his left knee.

And last month, he had a brush with disaster when he hit his head on the board while training in Spain.

Quoted



"Being injured is one thing, hurting is another...."

When the head isn't there properly, it's difficult to turn the page and get back to positive thoughts."

Alexandre Despatie

The deep cut on the forehead as well as the concussion he suffered nearly derailed his latest Olympic dreams.

As a result, Despatie will have to surpass himself if he is to add to his Olympic medal total.

"I have a big challenge in front of me but I'm going to the Games to do better than

ever," he told The Canadian Press. "And that's what the Olympics are all about — the desire to surpass oneself. I usually overcome challenges and that's what I'm going to do."

The three-time world champion and two-time Olympic medal-winner knows what he is talking about.

Four months before the Beijing Games in 2008, Despatie fractured his foot in an injury that prevented him from training in the run-up to the Olympics. Then, once in China, he suffered back pains that had him fearing the worst.

In the end, however, he still won silver in the three-metre dive.

"Mentally, it was super difficult," he said. "Healing physically isn't enough. You've got to get your confidence back."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Thank you, mom"

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You can be pretty stubborn when the mood takes you and it is likely to take you today. You may discover though that you are not the only one who knows how to dig in their heels.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

No amount of compromise will work today, so be ready to fight for what you believe in. When it comes to willpower, you have more than most but a rival may not be as weak as they look.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Different people see things in different ways and if you can accept that, you won't have too many problems today. But if you insist the world agrees with you then you could find yourself in a lonely place.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Make sure you keep a sense of perspective over the next 24 hours, especially where money is concerned. What you own and earn is important, of course, but cash can't buy you the kind of love that you crave.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You can't help but be assertive and ambitious but don't go to extremes and start making the kind of demands of other people that you would never accept for yourself. You need more friends, not more enemies.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You seem to be asking yourself a lot of serious questions of late, but are you getting any intelligent answers? If not, maybe you should loosen up a bit and not take life so seriously — then the answers will come.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

If you go back on a promise today, you will regret it later. You must live up to your obligations, at home and at work because if you don't, you will let everyone down — including yourself.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

What happens today may shock you but you should have seen it coming. Also, it's unlikely to be as bad as you think, so don't overreact. What changes cannot be unchanged, no matter how forceful you may be.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

After being kept out of the loop for so long, you will discover what has been going on. It's unlikely to be as bad as you feared. It may even be good if you choose to take a long-term outlook.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Mind planet Mercury united with Pluto today suggests you need to take a more positive view of what's going on in the world. It's not all doom and gloom you know, in fact there are marvels in every direction.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Conflict of one kind or another is inevitable today and although that may not sound like very good news it has to happen. Only when the air is cleared can you all start to breathe more easily.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

The pressure has been cranking up for quite some time and over the next few days it may even become intolerable. But you are tougher than you look and will rise to the challenge. Give it your all. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Prime Ministers

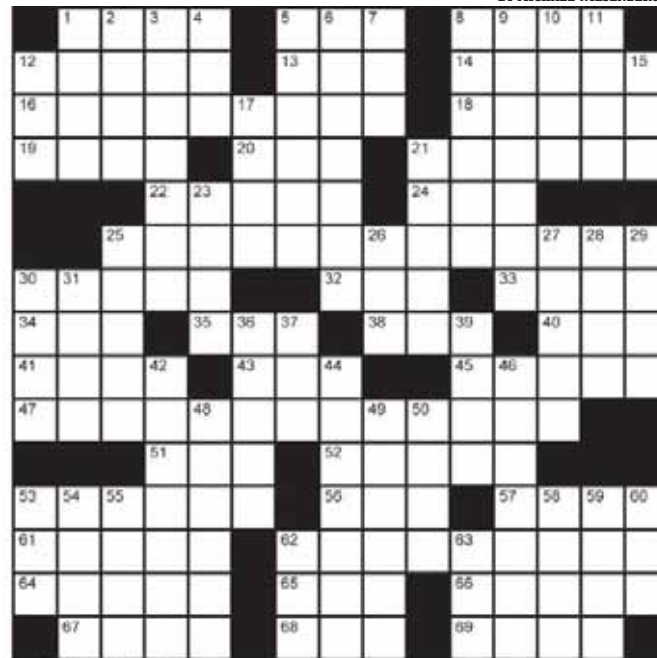
Across

1. Prime Minister Chrétien
5. Where to find *The Sopranos*
8. Most common first name among Canadian PMs
12. Desperado chasers
13. Tax return rvw.
14. *Das Boot* setting
16. See 62-Across
18. Atoll explosion
19. Old dagger
20. It flows from Alberta
21. Mountainous regions of planets
22. Like some flowers
24. ___ de Cologne
25. Prime Minister April 20, 1968-June 4, 1979 and March 3, 1980-June 30, 1984
30. Surrounded by
32. Legal matter
33. Montréal, Québec, Maritimes locale
34. ___ Vegas
35. California Bay Area's largest airport, for short
38. Some in Québec
40. Letters ending an email or texted request
41. IMO cousin
43. Her: Ger.
45. Swimming (in)
47. First Prime Minister born after Confederation and only one to represent a Manitoba riding
51. Switch positions
52. Immune system component
53. Third Prime Minister, June 16, 1891-November 24, 1892

56. "Am ___ trouble!"
57. Cowardly Lion player
61. "Mea ___": "my fault"
62. With 16-Across, second Prime Minister, November 7, 1873-October 8, 1878
64. First Radiohead single
65. Choice word
66. Prime Minister St. Laurent
67. Ill-mannered
68. 33-Acr. summer
69. Stuns

Down

1. ___ of Arc
2. Action-denoting suffix
3. Showed hospitality at the door
4. Born
5. Less clear
6. Manufacturer
7. "___ to Joy"
8. Alaska capital
9. Force (upon)
10. Certain gardener
11. US space gp.
12. In short, they served Canada
15. Sporty Audis
17. Film genre
21. To the point
23. Brief bylaws
25. Affirm
26. United spinoff
27. "___ apple every day to keep the doctor away"
28. Garage sale stipulation
29. Zion's locale
30. James Bond's Octopussy car, informally
31. Bryn ___ College: women's liberal arts college near Philadelphia



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36. Premier
37. Electrical-impedance unit whose symbol is an omega
39. Satirist Mort
42. Cried "Yee-haw!"
44. Changed the bathroom decor
46. "What have we here?"
48. Open a package, maybe

49. Most freezing
50. '70s babies are part of this
53. USC : Pac 10 :: UNC : ___
54. New Westminster, BC-born Mason portrayer
55. Blue in Québec
58. ___ chori: for two voices, musically
59. "We have met the

- enemy and ___ us": Pogo quote
60. Monopoly utils.
62. Yes
63. In the manner of

Yesterday's crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



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How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

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9	5	6	1	3	8	7	2	4
4	3	7	2	9	6	8	1	5
7	2	5	3	1	9	6	4	8
6	1	3	4	8	7	5	9	2
8	9	4	6	5	2	1	7	3
1	4	8	7	6	3	2	5	9
5	6	2	9	4	1	3	8	7
3	7	9	8	2	5	4	6	1

		5		6	8		1	
4	9		2					7
				3				
	5	8	7				1	4
7	4				2	3	5	
		1						
2				8			7	6
5		3	6	4				

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